

The Sourdough

S E N T I N E L

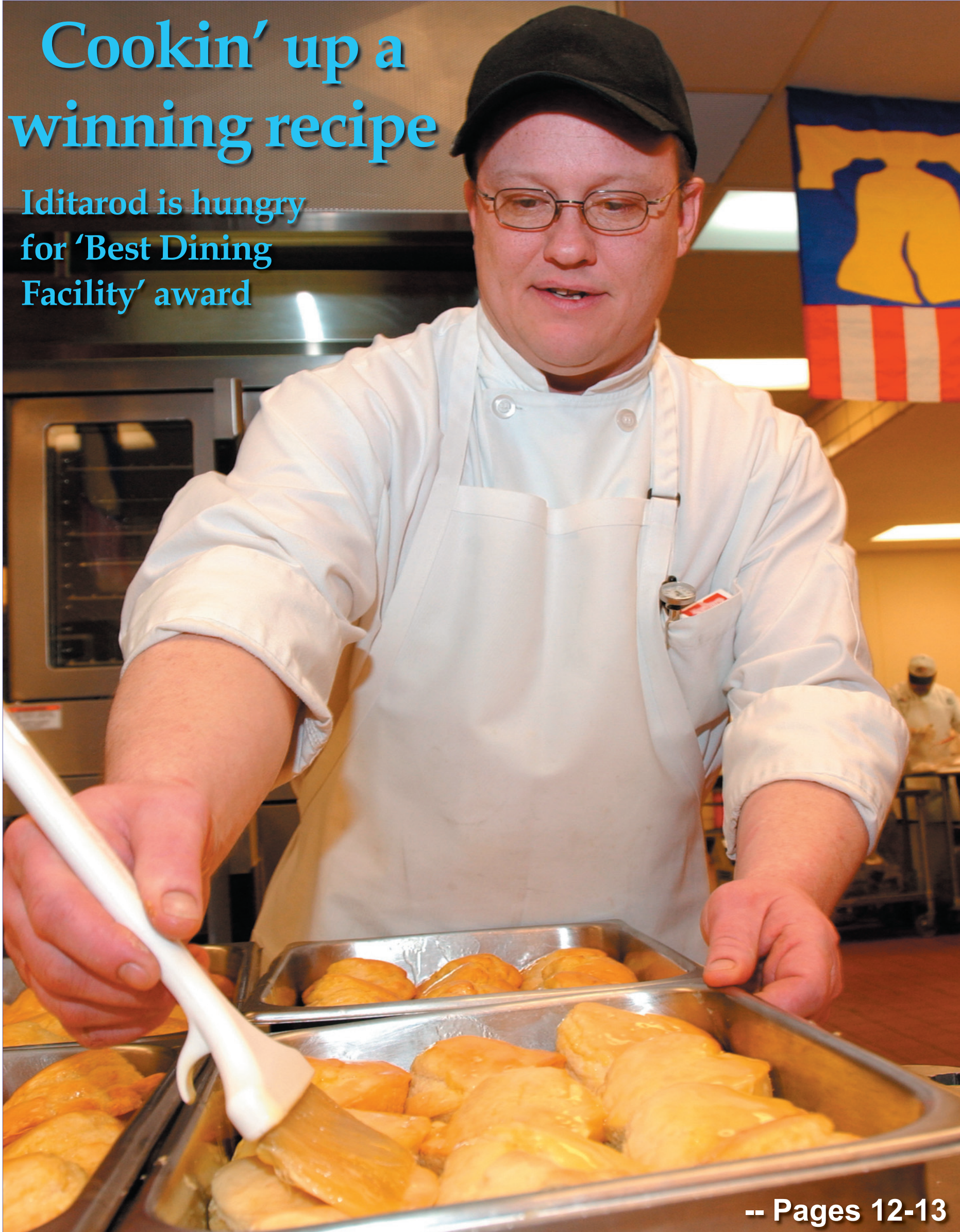
March 4, 2005

Elmendorf Air Force Base, Alaska

Vol. 56, No. 9

Cookin' up a winning recipe

Iditarod is hungry for 'Best Dining Facility' award



-- Pages 12-13

STAFF SGT. PRENTICE COLTER



MR. CARL BRADFORD

New Alaska USA opens

Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander, and Mr. Darrel Cavender, member of the Alaska USA Federal Credit Union board of directors, cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the Alaska USA building Feb. 14, as base leaders and Alaska USA employees look on. The credit union is now located at 4846 Westover Rd. near the Base Exchange/Commissary. The branch offers new Saturday hours and a drive-through service Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. The credit union is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Action Line



Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass
3rd Wing Commander

Do you have a problem you can't seem to get solved? Would you like to recognize someone for a job well done? The commander's action line is your avenue to communicate your questions, comments and concerns directly to the commander, Brig. Gen. Michael Snodgrass. Your calls will get the commander's personal attention and be answered in a timely manner.

If you have a question, call or e-mail the action line at:

552-2224
actionline@elmendorf.af.mil

The following commanders stand ready to help you and can answer the majority of your questions. If they can't help, then please call the Action Line.

Key phone numbers:

Col. Christopher Thelen, 3rd CES/CC
552-3007
Lt. Col. David Aupperle, 3rd SVS/CC
552-2468
Lt. Col. Robert Garza, 3rd SFS/CC
552-4304

Traffic violations

Q: First, I would like to thank the snow removal crew for the outstanding job of keeping Elmenodorf's bike trails clear so I can spend 85 percent of my time off the streets.

However, this letter is in regards to how unsafe I feel on the streets of Elmendorf.

I ride a bicycle year round. As a cyclist, I take all the safety precautions to include studded tires, front and rear lights, and reflectors.

I stop at all stop signs and signals and I dismount and walk at all major intersections. This is where the real problem starts.

I wait for the walk signal before I cross the intersection, but as I get

half way across the street, I have to wait for vehicles to stop running the light before I can finish crossing. This is not one or two vehicles, it's as many as six vehicles at a time.

So, I have to stand in the middle of the intersection waiting. I feel this puts me in danger of getting run over.

Although the problem is the worst at Vandenberg and Provider avenues, it's a problem at all intersections. The speed limit on Provider Avenue is 25 mph in the housing area, but vehicles are doing 35-40 mph in this area.

This needs attention because it is a daily problem.

A: Thank you for your feedback on this issue. Security Forces have been directed to forego "verbal" warnings when they observe

traffic violations and to issue the appropriate citation.

We continue to enforce, address, and educate our vehicle operators to obey traffic laws and be courteous to other drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Our Security Forces have done an excellent job with their limited resources.

From February '04 through January '05, patrolers issued 1,524 citations for a myriad of moving violations with 1,125 of those issued for speeding and failure to obey traffic signals.

I would ask every vehicle operator to obey all traffic laws and be especially aware of pedestrians and bicyclists entering pedestrian cross walks.



■ **Senior Airman Zachary Steinke**, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, coordinated lodging, transportation and orders for 80 aircrew to Exercise COPE SANDS and processed diplomatic clearances for Exercise COPE TIGER. Also, Airman Steinke leads the squadron's physical conditioning program three times a week.

■ **Master Sgt. Sherry Halls and Senior Airman Sedrick Evans**, 517th Airlift Squadron, assisted a transient C-17 that experienced an in-flight emergency, resulting in 72 passengers activating their emergency passenger oxygen system. They immediately responded, taking inventory and ensuring the aircraft continued without further delay.

■ **C-130 static display teams from the 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron, 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron, 3rd Mission Support Group, 3rd Contracting Squadron, and 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron**, relocated an aircraft from its flight line location to its final resting place at Elmendorf's Heritage park, aiding in the celebration of the 3rd Wing's rich history.

■ **Capt. Amanda Williams, Ms. Shena Jones, Ms. Sheri Mason, Ms. Lauren McGrain, and Ms. Tammi Fletcher**, 3rd Services Squadron, planned, publicized and executed the Roaring 20s Casino Night, which was attended by more than 500 people. They additionally recruited volunteers and spearheaded child care.

■ **Staff Sgt. Eric Tavernier**, 3rd Services Squadron, was selected as the "Pacific Air Forces Services NCO of the Quarter." He also conducted 45 wartime mission training classes, spearheaded the deployment of 50 personnel and managed more than \$200,000 in readiness assets.

■ This week's commander's shadows are **Airman 1st Class Michael Archibald**, 3rd Civil Engineer Squadron and **1st Lt. Scott Corey**, 3rd Medical Group.



The Sourdough
SENTINEL

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Best in DoD 2000

Best in Air Force

1999, 2000 & 2001

Best in PACAF

1998, 1999, 2000 & 2001

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3rd Wing Moment in History



3rd Bomb Group, Bismarck Sea

March 3, 1943:

The 3rd Bomb Group participated in the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, sinking or damaging 16 Japanese ships bringing personnel and materiel to Lai, New Guinea, and proving that airpower could destroy a naval force at sea.



TECH. SGT. KEITH BROWN

Maj. (Dr.) Thomas Knolmayer, 3rd Medical Group chief of surgery, prepares for a training run with his dog team at Beach Lake in Chugiak Sunday. On Saturday, he will be the only active-duty military member to begin the 1,131-mile Iditarod sled dog race from Anchorage to Nome.

Elmendorf doctor to lead pack in Iditarod sled dog race

By Capt. Amy Hansen
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Imagine working all day as chief of surgery at the base hospital, and then caring for and running 20 sled dogs, before returning home at 3 a.m. to your wife and 5-month-old baby to catch whatever sleep you can.

It's all in a day's work for the 3rd Medical Group's Maj. (Dr.) Thomas Knolmayer, who will compete in the 1,131-mile-long Iditarod dog sled race starting Saturday.

Major Knolmayer will be the only active-duty military member to start the race this year in a field of 79 competitors, and one of only 28 rookies, according to the Iditarod Web site.

Getting to the finish line of the "Last Great Race" might be a challenge for Major Knolmayer, but he has already overcome many obstacles to earn the opportunity to be on the starting line.

Last year, a deployment took priority over a full season of training and competition for the dogs, although the team finished the Knik 200, which counted as one of two qualifying races for the 2005 Iditarod.

This year, icy conditions and lack of snow made training difficult.

"Training has been rough because of the weather — much worse than any other year I can imagine," said Major Knolmayer.

He and his Chugiak-based dogs compensated for the lack of snow in the Anchorage bowl by driving several hours north to Sheep Mountain, near Glenallen, on the weekends to train. And for much of the winter, Major Knolmayer had to harness the team to an all-terrain vehicle instead of a sled for training.

In addition to the less-than-ideal training weather, eight of Major Knolmayer's 20 dogs were injured at some point this winter.

"It was more injuries than I expected, and some of it might have been because of our training in the

mountains—dogs aren't designed to run downhill. They've all improved, but a week and a half ago Tomahawk was injured. He's my best and toughest leader, but I don't think he's going to make the race," said Major Knolmayer.

Although there are six other lead dogs that will run the Iditarod with his 16-dog team, none are as tough and experienced as Tomahawk, said Major Knolmayer.

Tomahawk proved his worth before his recent injury when he led the team to a 12th place finish in the Copper Basin 300 in January, after the team's disappointing scratch in the Sheep Mountain 150.

The Copper Basin finish fulfilled the two-race requirement for entry into the Iditarod, but it wasn't "a mush in the park" for Major Knolmayer's team.

"The Copper Basin 300 is known as the toughest mid-distance race in the world," he said. "Much of the trail was pure ice. You couldn't turn or use your brake, at one point there was chest-deep fresh snow, the temperature was 35 degrees below zero, and we had to walk the dogs through a river crossing. It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life."

"What Tom didn't mention was that he broke his rib the day before the race started and that he got frostbite on two of his toes," said his wife, Mrs. Tina Knolmayer. "But he still finished."

Major Knolmayer said his experience with the Copper Basin 300 and his practice shuffling a very demanding schedule during a difficult training season can only help him endure the challenges of the Iditarod.

As chief of surgery at Elmendorf's hospital, he supervises six surgeons, two nurses, and four staff members.

"As the chief, he deals with all of the problems, authorizes leave, and makes the on-call and duty schedules," said Capt. (Dr.) Paula Anderson, 3rd Medical Operations Squadron surgeon.

At home, Major Knolmayer also has demands on his time, mostly in the form of his 5-month-old son.

"My wife understands at this point that we don't get much family time," said Major Knolmayer. "She packs up the baby and comes out to the kennels," he said.

"Not having him around and watching him push himself so hard has been the biggest challenge for me," said Mrs. Knolmayer. "He's been getting five hours of sleep or less a night. But I am so proud of him."

When asked why he has stuck with his plans to compete in the Iditarod despite the immense amount of time, energy and money it consumes, Major Knolmayer's answer is simple: "It's an adventure; it's a challenge. You can't just sit around and watch TV, you've got to do something. The dogs are a blast, too."

His friends and coworkers have no doubt Major Knolmayer will get to the finish line, which he says is his goal.

"He's the most driven person I've ever met," said Mrs. Knolmayer. "He had knee surgery and was in a leg brace and could barely walk for months, yet he was still training his team on the ATV. He's got more tenacity and can-do attitude than anyone I've ever met."

"We first and foremost hope that he's very safe and has a wonderful experience, and of course we hope that he's able to finish," said Col. Kerry Dexter, 3rd MDG deputy commander. "That would be quite an accomplishment for a rookie musher."

"It takes a certain type of person to finish, and I think he's that kind of person," said Mrs. Knolmayer. "He has incredible drive, motivation, and compassion for the dogs. He can handle anything—no sleep, hunger, aches and pains—but he'll take great care of his dogs, and they'll take him to Nome."

(Author's note: To follow Major Knolmayer's progress, log on to www.iditarod.com, or to learn more about his team, go to www.tntsleddogteam.com.)

Community center hosts new Friday activities

Klondike offers free weekend entertainment for Airmen

By Senior Airman Austin May
3rd Wing Public Affairs

In Alaska, especially during the colder winter months, it can be difficult for some Airmen to find new and exciting things to do. While most of Elmendorf eagerly anticipates the arrival of summer and the myriad of outdoor activities that come with it, there are still a few more weeks of cold weather left to endure. Outside the gates are countless venues for Airmen to gather and enjoy their off-duty time, though not everyone can find their niche in the local community.

Those who wish to have a fun-filled evening with friends, free from the smoke and alcohol-filled bar scene, now have a dedicated time and place to gather and take in the company of their fellow Airmen. Funded largely by the Armed Services YMCA and the base chapel, Friday Night at the Klondike is a weekly gathering of Airmen at the Klondike Community Center, where entertaining and safe activities are planned and open to all Airmen, E-4 and below.

Friday Night at the Klondike is run and produced by Airmen, with assistance provided where needed by Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Boyd, 3rd Wing Chapel Center. The Klondike Activities Committee is made up of Airmen from all over base, with representative positions from each dorm, as well as a president, vice president, and treasurer .

Airman 1st Class Jeremiah Williams, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron, is the vice president of the Klondike Activities Committee. According to him, the goal of the program is to offer Airmen a community based on wingmanship, recognition, and support.

“This program helps the base as a whole by providing a positive alternative to the many high-

risk events available to Airmen on the weekends,” said Airman Williams. “The activities provided are safe, exciting, and fun.”

In addition to being a safe place to enjoy one’s self after the duty day, the benefits of this new program can carry over into one’s professional life.

“The program also provides volunteer opportunities for Airmen supporting the base mission of giving back to the community via a measurable community involvement,” said Airman Williams. “Getting to know others and their job challenges allows for a better community here at Elmendorf.”

The activities are planned several weeks in advance, and all ideas are contributed by Airmen. The Klondike Activities Committee meets every

Friday at 6 p.m., immediately before that night’s events. At the meetings, ideas are presented and discussed for upcoming events and outings. All Airmen are welcome and encouraged to attend the meetings and voice their opinions. Future events include tonight’s All Sports Trivia Challenge, card and video game tournaments, scavenger hunts and food activities.

Sixty-five Airman showed up the Klondike Community Center Feb. 25 to try their hand at Texas Hold’em, the card game craze that is sweeping the nation. The winner of the tournament, Airman 1st Class Ryan White, 381st Intelligence Squadron, took home a brand new Playstation 2 video game console.

For more information on upcoming events or to find out how you can help, call Chaplain Boyd at 552-4422.



AIRMAN DE JUAN HALEY

Airmen concentrate on a very intense game of Texas Hold’em Feb. 25 at the Klondike Community Center. Contestants were competing for the grand prize, a Playstation 2 console.

Some CENTCOM positions to be one-year tours

By Master Sgt. David Byron
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Air Force officials are designating some positions in U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility as 365-day extended deployments in an effort to provide stability and allow for long-term relationship building with host governments.

The new tour lengths currently affect about 200 key and critical operational and joint task force staff positions, officials said.

Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper directed the extended tours in response to requests from joint task force commanders seeking continuity in selected positions, often where the local culture requires more time to establish meaningful ties with local people and host governments.

These key positions are an integral part of a combatant commander’s mission and the air and space expeditionary force structure. No new positions will be created; they will be converted from current AEF slots.

“The positions will span a wide spectrum of Air Force career fields,” said Lt. Col. James Davis, Air Force assignment classification, retirements and separation policy chief. “There will be a good mix of enlisted and officer positions, mainly mid-level and up.”

Air Force Personnel Center officials will take the lead in finding

people to fill most of the slots. Air Force Senior Leader Management Office officials will handle requirements for colonel and chief master sergeant positions, he said.

Colonel Davis said selections would be made during the course of the upcoming spring and summer assignment cycles, with all being in place by August 2005.

Volunteers will be sought first, he said. If there are not enough volunteers, AFPC officials will use modified short-tour criteria to fill the slots. For colonels, AFSLMO officials will assign them through major command channels.

Although these deployments may appear to be remote tours, they are not permanent change-of-station moves.

It is not a goal to establish a permanent U.S. military presence in the region, and there is no Status of Forces Agreement in place covering permanent assignments, officials said. The positions will fall under the category of “indeterminate length” temporary duty assignments. That category will allow for certain entitlements to apply that are not available for standard temporary assignments.

“Although we can’t consider them regular short-tour assignments, they will be treated as such,” Colonel Davis said. “Lieutenant colonels and below who complete the tours will have priority for follow-on assignments, just like any other one-year tour.” Colonels completing the tours

will be assigned according to normal colonel assignment procedures.

Family members also may be eligible for standard short-tour benefits.

Storage of household goods is one benefit offered to Airmen serving temporary assignments of 180 days or longer.

There are possible options for moving the Airman’s family while deployed; the availability and extent of those options will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Airmen may also have the option of returning to their former assignment, if there is a suitable vacancy, officials said.

There will be career benefits for Airmen serving these extended temporary assignments. Airmen serving the 365-day TDYs will receive short-tour credit and be exempt from AEF or other contingency deployments for six months following their return home. Most of the joint task force positions will earn joint-duty



STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

Elmendorf members process through a deployment line at the Joint Mobility Complex during the 2004 Operational Readiness Inspection.

credit depending on actual length of rotation, officials said.

“Our expectation is that all of the joint task force positions will get full joint credit,” Colonel Davis said. “We are currently validating the positions working this with the Joint Staff and (secretary of defense). Although we’re asking some of our Airmen to deploy for a longer period of time to meet mission needs, we’re constantly looking for the best options for our (Airmen) and their families.”



Tech. Sgt. Richard Collins

Duty title: 703rd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron unit programs office noncommissioned officer in charge
Hometown: Phoenix, Ariz.
Hobbies: Fishing and all-terrain vehicles
How he contributes to the mission: By acting as an advisor to the squadron commander on all financial and mobility issues
Time at Elmendorf: Five years
Best part of being in Alaska: The outdoors
Supervisor’s comments: “Sergeant Collins professionally manages several major programs flawlessly. He is one of the most dedicated and hard working individuals in our support staff.” Master Sgt. Robert Marshall



PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. RYAN MATTOX

Airman 1st Class Christopher Alvarez

Duty title: 3rd Comptroller Squadron accounting technician
Hometown: Whittier, Calif.
Hobbies: Computer building, repairing, using the Internet and playing video games
How he contributes to the mission: Manages and controls all wing travel funding, ensures Arctic Warriors have adequate funding to deploy at a moment’s notice to support world-wide Air Force operations
Time at Elmendorf: Two years
Best part of being in Alaska: The cold
Supervisor’s comments: “Airman Alvarez’s work ethic, mission-first attitude, and leadership are second to none. He is an example for all of us to follow.” Senior Airman Douglas Stowe

Prayer luncheon

The National Prayer Luncheon will be at 11:30 a.m. at the Susitna Club March 11. Tickets must be pre-purchased and are available until Monday. Prices are \$7 per person or \$5 for E-4s and below.

For more information, contact your unit first sergeant or call the Chapel Center at 552-4422.

Patient Safety Week

The 3rd Medical Group will celebrate National Patient Safety Week Sunday through March 12. The focus this year will be on effective communication for both patients and the staff.

The activities at the 3rd MDG will be as followed: Monday and March 11, medication logs, brochures and a guide on managing benefits and medication risks will be given to outpatients; Wednesday, inpatients will be visited; and there will be a display on patient safety at the hospital entrances.

For more information, call Ms. Carole Durant at 580-3086.

Marriage conferences

The Chapel is providing registration scholarships to two “Weekend to Remember” marriage enrichment conferences. These conferences, led by FamilyLife, include topics such as effective communication, conflict resolution, developing intimacy, and renewing marriages.

The conferences are March 11-13 and 18-20 at the Anchorage downtown Marriott beginning at 5 p.m. The cost

per couple is \$35 for E-1 to E-4 and \$69 for E-5s and above. Call Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Goeker at 552-4422 to register for the scholarship.

3rd MDG council

The Health Consumers Advisory Council will meet Thursday at the Family Support Center. The 3rd Medical Group commander invites all 3rd Wing and civilian organizations to send a representative. This is an opportunity for all organizations to express views about the 3rd MDG, and allow the group to inform beneficiaries about services and programs offered.

Call Staff Sgt. Roman Vyvial at 580-6890 for questions.

Home buying class

The Elmendorf Housing Office will offer a home purchasing seminar Monday at 1 p.m. at the Housing Office.

For more information, call 552-4439/4328.

Arctic Warrior Olympics

A meeting to discuss the Arctic Warrior Olympics for event POCs and co-coordinators is March 18 at noon in the Deadalian Room at the Susitna Club.

AWO is Elmendorf’s premiere exhibition of physical fitness and unit pride. Held annually, the event offers recreational and athletic events designed to build team spirit and camaraderie. All base military personnel, DoD civilians, contractors and dependents are invited to participate. This year, the AWO is slated for June 10.

For open volunteer positions or

more information, see [topcover/units/awo/awo.htm](#) or call Capt. Roger Lee at 552-3985.

Swimming lessons

Registration for the March swimming session is underway at the Fitness Center for \$40. There are a variety of class sessions for all skill levels. For more information, visit or call the Fitness Center at 552-3504.

Selection board info

Air Force officials have approved the following changes to the schedule for selection boards convening in Calendar Year 2005: one board has been removed, a colonel (BSC) selection board will not convene Sept. 12 as previously scheduled; a major (MSC) selection board will convene Sept. 12; and a lieutenant colonel (MSC) selection board previously scheduled to convene July 6 will now convene Sept. 12. For more information, visit the military Personnel Flight, located in the People Center.

EOSO scholarships

The Elmendorf Officer’s Spouses’ Organization is offering several \$1,000 scholarships to Anchorage-area high school seniors. Applicants must be children of active duty or retired military members with at least a 3.0 GPA. Applications must be received by April 1.

Forms are available from your child’s high school counselor, the Elmendorf Family Support Center, the Susitna Club or the Elmendorf Officers’ Spouses website at [www.elemendorfo.com](#). Call 338-0018 for more information.



Chapel Schedule

Catholic Parish

■ Monday through

Wednesday and Friday Mass: 11:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center

■ **Thursday Mass:** 11:30 a.m. at the Hospital Chapel

■ **Sunday Mass:** 10:30 a.m. at Chapel 1

■ **Sunday Evening Mass:** 5 p.m. at Chapel 2

■ **Confession:** 6 p.m. Sundays at Chapel 2

Protestant Sunday

■ **Liturgical Service:** 9 a.m. at Chapel 2

■ **Celebration Service:** 9 a.m. at Chapel 1

■ **Gospel Service:** noon at Chapel 1

■ **Fellowship Praise:** 6 p.m. at Chapel 1

Religious Education

■ Catholic Religious

Education: Sunday at 9 a.m. at the Chapel 1 Center.

■ **Protestant Sunday School:** 10:30 a.m. at the Chapel Center.

For more information, call the Chapel at 552-4422.

Elmendorf focuses on Top 5 Enlisted Issues

Chief Master Sgt. Rob Tappana
3rd Wing command chief master sergeant

As part of our ongoing effort to improve quality of life, take better care of our people, and enhance our mission effectiveness, the 3rd Wing is proud to announce our Top Five Enlisted Issues for 2005.

This list, composed by 3rd Wing chief master sergeants, and fully supported by wing senior leadership will serve as the blueprint for ongoing initiatives to take the best possible care of our enlisted force.

Elmendorf’s Top Five Enlisted Issues are: Airmen’s health, professional military education, fitness, dormitory management, and club renovation/rejuvenation.

Each of these items is critical to the proper care and development of our enlisted personnel.

In order to ensure we move quickly to develop action plans and make progress, we will be designating a chief master sergeant to champion

each of these issues.

Over the coming weeks, you’ll see articles in the Sourdough and on Top Cover addressing each issue and our plans for improvement.

In addition, we will be taking them forward to Headquarters Pacific Air Forces during the wing commander and command chief conferences to obtain their assistance in attaining our goals.

We’ll be looking for your input and assistance as we move forward. Take the time to read the articles and provide your inputs to the issues champions or to me.

We can’t implement an idea that you don’t share with us.

As Will Rodgers once said, “Even if you are on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.”

We are on the right track, now let’s get moving and make things better for everyone here at Elmendorf.

I look forward to hearing from you.



STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

One of the Top 5 Enlisted Issues on Elmendorf is dormitory management. Plans for the future include the possible development of dormitory councils.

Top 5 Enlisted Issues

- 1. Airmen’s Health**
Education, detection, and prevention of suicides and attempted suicides
DUI prevention through increased awareness and personal responsibility
- 2. Professional Military Education**
Current facility scheduled for demolition in Fiscal Year 07 to replace old dormitories
Identify funding and timeline for new facility and temporary facility
- 3. Fitness**
Current facility does not meet size requirements for our population
Arctic conditions restrict fitness testing during winter; no indoor running track
Provide alternate facilities on Airlifter Drive and near dorms
- 4. Dormitory Management**
Incorporate appropriate grade requirements on unit manning documents and train dorm managers
Develop dormitory councils
Leadership in dorms, Charge of Quarters performed by residents/top cover by noncommissioned officers, maintain good order and discipline
- 5. Club Renovation/Rejuvenation**
Develop an Enlisted Club geared to today’s Airmen



STAFF SGT. SUE NUCKOLLS

Load crew competition

Top: Staff Sgt. Aaron Hoeffling, Airman 1st Class Rob Holmes, and Senior Airman William Smith, 90th Aircraft Maintenance Unit, load an AIM-9 on an F-15E aircraft during the Wing Weapons Load Crew Competition Feb. 25 in Hangar 5. In the quarterly competition, the 12th Aircraft Maintenance Unit triumphed against the 90th AMU and 19th AMU.

Right: Airman 1st Class Timothy Lindsey installs impulse cartridges on an F-15C aircraft missile launcher.



Arctic Life

Great living in the great land

General Newton visits Team Elmendorf, lauds efforts

By Capt. Eric Badger
3rd Wing Public Affairs

Retired U.S. Air Force Gen. Lloyd W. “Fig” Newton visited the base Feb. 24-Sunday to tour facilities, meet and greet Airmen and attend the annual African-American Heritage Committee Red, Black and Green Ball as the guest speaker Saturday.

During the general’s three-day visit, he toured the 3rd Medical Group hospital, 3rd Logistics Readiness Squadron, 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron and 3rd Equipment Maintenance Squadron.

While visiting the 3rd CMS Feb. 25, General Newton presented Brig. Gen. Michael A. Snodgrass, 3rd Wing commander, and the base propulsion community with the Pratt & Whitney Golden Wrench Award.

The award was created to recognize outstanding achievements in the aerospace propulsion maintenance industry. This occasion marked only the fifth time that

this award has been presented to an Air Force unit since its inception.

“It was absolutely amazing to get the prestigious Pratt & Whitney Golden Wrench award presented to us by General Newton,” said Chief Master Sgt. Timothy Shannon, 3rd CMS wing propulsion system manager. “The Elmendorf propulsion community is a formidable team. They do great things each and every day, so being recognized with an industry award is truly fitting.”

As the guest speaker at the AAHC ball, General Newton expressed his gratitude to the people of Elmendorf for their hard work and dedication, and also explained why General Snodgrass has every right to be proud of Team Elmendorf.

“From the hospital, to propulsion, to transportation, these great Americans here at Elmendorf are serving our nation, and are doing it in a flawless manner,” he said. “America is still the greatest nation on the globe, and no matter what the cost, we must serve and defend her.”

The general also took the time to have lunch with approximately 15 Elmendorf company grade officers at the Susitna Club Feb. 25 to provide mentorship, and to discuss issues concerning young, minority officers.

According to 2nd Lt. Murray McKeithan, Jr., theater battle management core system quality assurance evaluator, the general’s words were calming and inspirational. “He stirred a sense of confidence within me,” he said. “The general helped me realize that I can reach whatever goal I set. It’ll just take hard work and preparation to get there.”

General Newton retired from active duty in August 2000 and is currently the vice president for International programs and business development for Pratt & Whitney military engines, East Hartford, Conn.

As vice president, he is responsible for international military sales, assessing U.S. military requirements and developing business



AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN THRASHER

Retired Gen. Lloyd W. “Fig” Newton was the guest speaker for the “Red, Black and Green Ball,” hosted by the African-American Heritage Committee Saturday at the Kashim Club.

for Pratt’s military engine services.

Throughout his Air Force career, the Ridgeland, S.C. native was a command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours in the T-37, T-38, F-4, F-15, F-16, C-12 and F-117 aircraft. He also commanded three wings, an air division, Air Education and Training Command, and held numerous staff positions.

According to the general, Team Elmendorf’s commitment to excellence is second-to-none and is widely recognized throughout the globe. “Having the opportunity to be here is a real pleasure,” he said. “Team Elmendorf has an extremely important mission and you all do a great job everyday. The nation you serve depends heavily on you, and we honor and appreciate what you do for us.”



STAFF SGT. PRENTICE COLTER

Master Sgt. Dennis Kingan, 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron, shows General Newton a screen displaying engine data.

AFAF campaign assists Air Force Aid Society to help Arctic Warriors

By Staff Sgt. Ryan Mattox
3rd Wing Public Affairs Office

The 2005 Air Force Assistance Fund Campaign is underway, and representatives are visiting workcenters seeking pledges for this year’s campaign.

The annual fundraising campaign seeks donations from active-duty servicemembers to help fund four organizations that provide help to those in need.

Last year, one of those organizations did just that. The Air Force Aid Society gave back to Elmendorf more than \$382,000 in loans and spouse tuition assistance. “As you may or may not know, for every dollar

donated last year, we were able to give \$4 in interest-free loans or grants directly to Elmendorf personnel,” said Mr. Bob Lavigne, Family Support Center. “Last year, the Air Force Aid Society awarded \$6 million, and more than \$172,000 locally, in college education grants to Air Force dependents.”

Many Arctic Warriors and their families benefit from money that is raised through the AFAF.

One Arctic Warrior experienced that first hand last year.

In November 2004, Staff Sgt. Heather Williams, 3rd Medical Group, hit a rough patch in the road when her vehicle broke down and needed a tow.

Soon, the single mother of two had her back against

the wall when she was told how much it would cost to fix her car. “I have always donated to the AFAS to help others, never did I dream the donations would one day help me,” she said.

“The place my vehicle was towed to secured an engine for \$3,500. Even though it was a good deal, there was no way I could come up with that type of money right away. Yet, I still needed a vehicle that could safely transport my children and me to work, school, and other places. Mr. Lavigne helped me secure a loan from the Air Force Aid Society. I now have my SUV back thanks to the AFAS.”

For more information or to make a pledge, contact your AFAF representative.



Lt. Col. David Aupperle, commander

Unit Spotlight 3rd Services Squadron

MISSION:

The 3rd Services Squadron consists of approximately 625 people and manages more than 30 quality of life programs with annual sales and activity revenue of approximately \$9.7 million and assets valued at more than \$17 million. The squadron’s programs range from childcare and lodging to recreation and mortuary services. The 3rd SVS serves active-duty and retired military, DoD civilians, and family members working and/or residing in the Anchorage area.





PHOTOS BY STAFF SGT. PRENTICE COLTER

Senior Airman Rhonda White, a 3rd Services Squadron food service worker, removes an entrée from a food warmer to place on the serving line at the Iditarod Dining Facility recently. This week, the Iditarod is being visited by a team of evaluators who are inspecting the facility as part of the selection process for the Hennessy Award. If selected, the Iditarod will be named the “Best Dining Facility in the Air Force.” In the past, Elmendorf’s food service program has won the Hennessy Award three of the last five years.

On the cover: Mr. Bill Shira, 3rd SVS food service worker, prepares some biscuits.

Iditarod stands out against competition

By Staff Sgt. Mike Edwards
3rd Wing Public Affairs

“Man, am I hungry. I need to get something to eat, but I don’t want to go to the chow hall.” This thought has undoubtedly run through the minds of many Airmen, at least it did until they arrived at Elmendorf.

Known for having award-winning dining facilities with Alaska-unique features, Elmendorf, with its Iditarod and Kenai dining halls, has proven a favorite among many.

“As aircrew, I’ve been to quite a few bases throughout my relatively short career, and have seen some really great dining facilities, but the Iditarod really tops them all,” said Airman 1st Class Jacob Jordan, 962nd Airborne Air Control Squadron. “I know it might sound cliché, but the food here is really good and the whole atmosphere really is breathtaking.”

Serving more than 1,200 people every day, the Iditarod and the people who work there really have their work cut out for them to maintain such high levels of customer satisfaction.

“It takes a lot of work by a lot of individuals and units to make this place what it is,” said Master Sgt. Frederico Vidal, 3rd Services Squadron food services superintendent. “We have a great team of people working together to keep things running so smoothly. Everyone from the civil engineers to the military and civilians who work here, as well as our contractors, do just an outstanding job.”

Built in 1995, the Iditarod is unique in its architecture and décor, complete with fireplace, a polar bear, vaulted ceilings and an open layout. The Iditarod is like no other dining hall, according to Airman Jordan.

“You hear people in other branches of the service or from different eras of time talking about what it is like at the ‘chow hall’ or what it was like ‘when they were in’ and it kind of makes you smile inside when you think about how nice it is here,” he said. “We have it good here and I think everyone really appreciates it.”



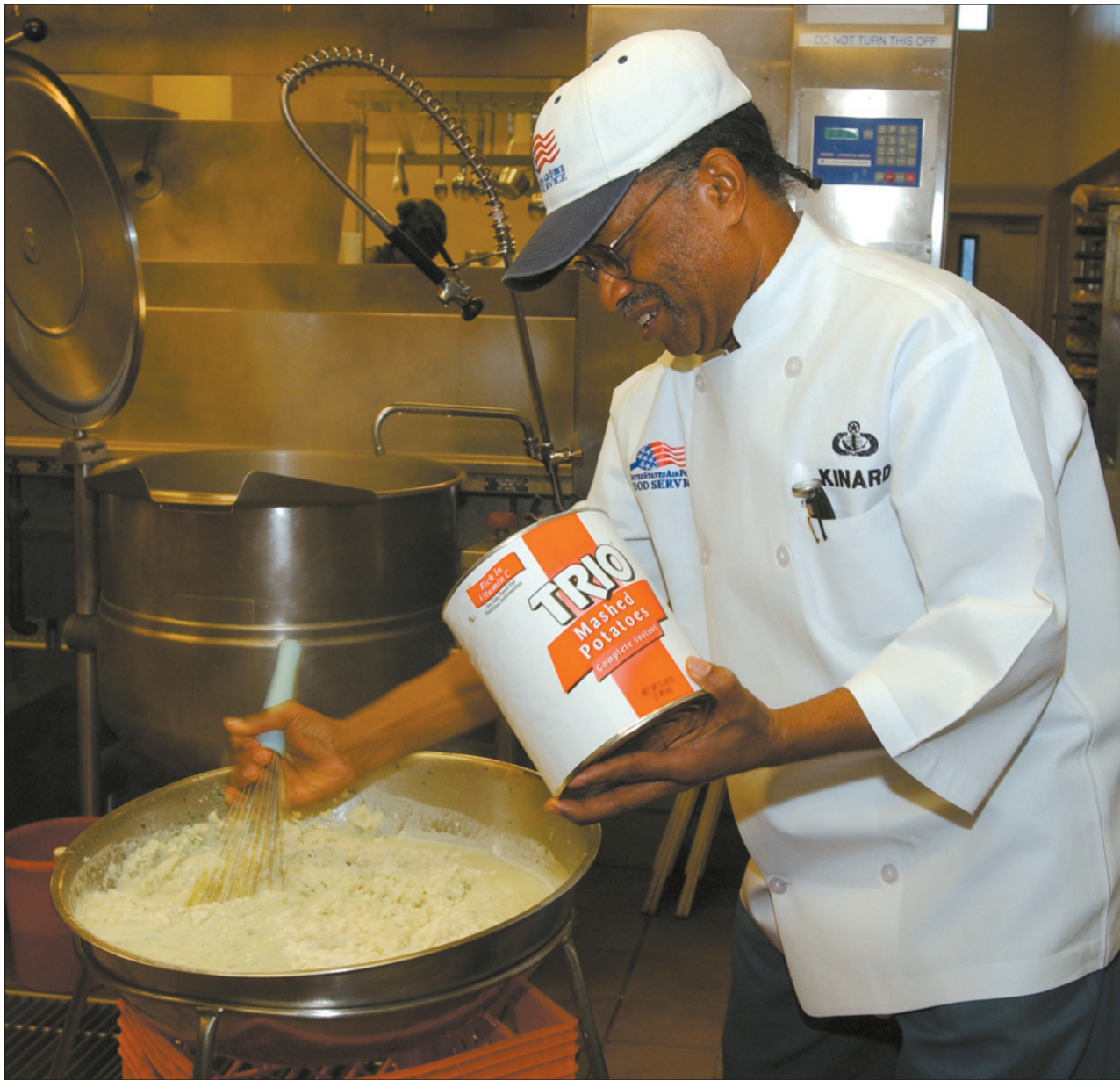
Mrs. Debbie Summers, a 3rd SVS food service worker, serves up a plate of Mexican food.

According to Sergeant Vidal, some of the feedback he hears regularly is comments on the consistent quality of the food. He attributes this to the skill and experience of the chefs.

“We calculated all of the experience we have both on the civilian side and the military side and found out we have more than 100 years worth of experience on the military side of the house, and on the civilian side we have more than 300 years worth of experience,” he said.

All of this experience, attention to detail and teamwork between various base agencies has led to unprecedented levels of customer satisfaction, according to Sergeant Vidal who has been in the Air Force and in food services for more than 18 years.

“The commitment to quality and our customers is something we demand of ourselves every single meal,” he said. “In our way of thinking, you can’t have a bad day. It just isn’t allowed.”



Above: Mr. Herbert Kinard, a 3rd SVS food service worker, prepares a bowl of mashed potatoes.



Left: Lemons are sliced as a garnish for dinner meals.

Below: Airmen 1st Class Kody Stiller and Dustin Majewski, both from the 3rd Component Maintenance Squadron, enjoy lunch at the Iditarod.



Weekend

The Weekend

:::spotlight

:::fri

Catch a ride to weekend fun

By Mrs. Mary Rall
3rd Services Marketing

Taking in some fun on the weekend is easier through the Information, Tickets and Travel Office, that offers round-trip transportation and discounted pricing for some local events and activities.

Hockey fans can take in an Alaska Aces hockey game and not worry about transportation because ITT will take care of all the details for them through its shuttle service.

The shuttle service runs to Friday and Saturday home games at the Sullivan Arena in Anchorage for \$3 per person or \$10 for a group of four.

The shuttle can be met at 5:30 p.m. at the Base Exchange and Commissary, 5:45 p.m. at the Susitna Club and 6 p.m. at Chapel One and the base theater.

Shuttle tickets are good for round-trip transportation to and from the games. The shuttle drops riders off at the pick up points in reverse order. The shuttle arrives at the arena at 6:30 p.m. and departs 15 minutes after the end of the game.

General admission game tickets are offered for all home games through ITT for the discounted price of \$8.50.

At the gate they are \$10.25 each.

Games will be featured at the arena tonight, Saturday, Sunday, March 23 and 25. However, shuttle service is only available tonight, Saturday, and March 25.

Patrons can also fill up before the game or recall their favorite plays afterward by taking advantage of the Club Special. This special includes round-trip transportation, a general admission ticket and one Kashim Club bar menu item for before or after the game for \$14 per person.

Another transportation

opportunity offered through ITT is the shuttle trip to the Alyeska Ski Resort. Featured trips include round-trip transportation, a lift ticket and ski or snowboard rental for \$49 per person. Alternative prices are available for people with their own equipment or who simply need transportation.

Trips to Alyeska will be offered Sunday and March 13, 20 and 27 in conjunction with the Outdoor Adventure Program.

For more information on additional ITT ticket opportunities, stop by its location at the Arctic Oasis Community Center or call 753-2378.



MR. GREG MARTIN

:::inside the fence

Give Parents a Break, today from 7-11 p.m. at the Denali CDC. 552-8304

Aces Hockey Shuttle, running today and Saturday for \$3 per person and \$10 for a group of four through ITT. 753-2378

Friday Bowling, today from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. for \$2.50 a game at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

All Night Xtreme, Saturday from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Family Xtreme Bowling, Sunday from 1-8 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Alyeska Ski Trip, Sunday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. for \$49 with the Outdoor Adventure Program. 552-4838

Sunday Brunch, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Susitna Club. 753-3131

Introduction to Stained Glass, Monday and March 14, 21 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. for \$65 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Advanced Stained Glass, Monday and March 15, 20 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. for \$45 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Airmen's Special, Monday

from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Intermediate Stained Glass, Monday and March 15, 20 and 28 at 6:30 p.m. for \$45 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Bowler Appreciation Night, Tuesday from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Preschool Story Hour, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Library. 552-3787

Wood Bowl Turning Class, Tuesday and March 15, 22 and 29 and Thursday and March 17, 24 and 31 at various times for \$65 at the Skills Development Center. 552-7012

Take It and Make It, Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at the Library. 552-3787

Parent Advisory Council, Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. at the Susitna Club. 552-8304

FCC Training and Orientation, Tuesday-March 11 at Family Child Care. 552-3995

Kayaking Basics and Safety Class, Tuesday at 8 p.m. at the Fitness Center. 552-4838

Deployed Spouse Family Potluck, Wednesday from

6-9 p.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529

Wednesday Night Madness, Wednesday from 5-9 p.m. for \$15 per lane at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

\$1 Drafts, Thursday from 5-9 p.m. at The Igloo at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Morning Coffee Conversation, Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Arctic Oasis Community Center. 552-8529

Family Night Buffet, Thursday at the Susitna Club. 753-3131

Red Pin Bowling, Thursday from 5-9 p.m. at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Team Elmendorf Crud Tournament, March 11 at The Cave at 4:30 p.m. 753-3131

Friday Bowling, March 11 from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. for \$2.50 per game at the Polar Bowl. 552-4108

Retiree Appreciation Night, Retirees save 20 percent March 11 at the Susitna Club. 753-3131

** Skills Development Center classes must be signed up for three days in advance.*

KENAI FJORDS: Stop by the Arctic Oasis Community Center to see how you can get Kenai Fjords tour discounts today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at ITT 753-2378.

Movie: *Coach Carter* (PG-13) Coach Carter finds himself in the center of controversy when he locks out his basketball team to motivate them to improve their grades. He is even prepared to cancel the season after one third of his players fail to live up to classroom standards. 7 p.m.

:::sat

ICY WATERS: Drop your line into the fun of a free ice fishing tournament Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. at Hillberg Lake. This event is open to all ages. 552-4838

Movie: *In Good Company* (PG-13) Dan is demoted in a corporate takeover. His new boss is half his age and a business school prodigy. Both men are going through turmoil at home, and Dan can't afford to lose his job in the wave of corporate layoffs. 7 p.m.

:::sun

SKI ON: Test your skills on the trails by taking beginning cross-country lessons Sunday at 1 p.m. at the Outdoor Recreation Center. 552-2023

Movie: *Assault on Precinct 13* (R) A mobster is taken to a Detroit precinct during a blizzard. By nightfall, both cops and prisoners find themselves fighting for their lives against a group of cops intent on taking them down. Now, it's up to those on the inside to band together just to survive this one night. 7 p.m.

:::fyi

SKI DISCOUNTS: The Outdoor Recreation Center has discounted its cross-country ski packages an additional 10 percent on top of already discounted prices. Also, the cost of an adult season cross-country ski rental package is now \$50. Children's packages are \$35. All season rental cross-country ski packages must be returned by April 14. For more information, call 552-2023.

Women’s History

By **1st Lt. Tony Wickman**
Alaskan Command Public Affairs

ACROSS

- 1. Constrictor
- 4. Compute
- 7. Distant
- 10. Horse feed
- 13. Inventor Whitney
- 14. 3, in ancient Rome
- 15. Period
- 16. Medical scan, in brief
- 17. USA equivalent to EPR
- 18. Terminate
- 19. Sass
- 20. Mistake
- 21. First woman state governor (WY-1925)
- 23. Gorge
- 25. Burn soother
- 26. Possesses
- 28. First black woman Sen. (IL-1992)
- Carol ____-Braun
- 30. First woman nominated for president by major party (Rep-64)
- 32. First American-born saint Eliza-beth ____ Seton
- 33. Singing voice
- 34. Siphon

- 35. Golfer Ernie
- 37. Attempt
- 38. Statement of approval
- 39. Lick, as a dog
- 40. Acting CSAF from Sep-Oct 1990
- 41. Carpet
- 44. Commercials
- 45. Federal org. concerned with env.
- 46. Bullring cheer
- 47. Group of three
- 49. Auto club
- 51. In the country
- 53. First woman secretary of a branch of the U.S. military
- 55. Road material
- 56. *Yahtzee* need
- 57. First woman to receive a patent
- 59. Ireland, formerly
- 62. Pen need
- 63. Mining goal
- 64. One ____ time
- 67. Imbibe
- 68. Bronze or Iron
- 69. Music group ____ Jovi
- 70. Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial architect Maya
- 71. Lyrical poem
- 72. Guided
- 73. Federal deals with immigration
- 74. Dine
- 75. Indicates maiden name

DOWN

- 1. Bar beverage
- 2. Margarine
- 3. Blimps and zephyrs
- 4. USAF intel org.
- 5. American social reformer Doro-thea ____
- 6. Expires
- 7. First woman senator (GA-1922)
- 8. God of war
- 9. Blockbuster music section

S	A	L		C	I	A				M	I	N	O	T
P	I	A		A	S	P	I	C		A	C	U	T	E
A	D	D		L	L	A	N	O		N	O	N	C	E
C	E	L		F	E	W	A	R	R	E	N			
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L	U	R	I	D		R	E	L	A	X		M	R	S
S	E	E	D	S			T	N	T			S	O	T

Last week’s solutions

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12
13				14				15				16		
17				18				19				20		
21				22		23	24				25			
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56					57			58			59		60	61
62				63				64	65	66		67		
68				69				70				71		
72				73				74				75		

- 10. Breakfast item
- 11. Dry gully
- 12. Vehicle need
- 22. College exam, in brief
- 24. USAF E-2
- 25. TV show ____ *McBeal*
- 27. Writer Sidney
- 29. First woman to fly solo across Atlantic
- 30. Pig’s pen
- 31. Sultry American actress West
- 32. Cleo killer
- 36. ____ Vegas
- 37. Uppermost
- 40. Actress Thompson
- 41. First African-American woman Literary Nobel Prize winner
- 42. Southern state, in short
- 43. ____ Aviv
- 44. General’s helper
- 47. Pang
- 48. Thatched roof
- 49. UFO fillers
- 50. Pub order
- 52. Country host to Al Dhafra Air Base, in short
- 54. Ohio city
- 56. Ring up
- 58. Store enticing
- 60. First American woman in space
- 61. Fencing tool
- 63. Japanese sash
- 65. Actress Carrere
- 66. Picnic crasher

Airman earns Bronze Star for exceptional work in Iraq

By Master Sgt. Tim Hoffman
Alaskan Command public affairs

Tech. Sgt. Troy Waters was disappointed he had to give a mass security briefing to his unit on his last duty day — a Friday at 3:30 p.m. no less — before he moved to his new assignment.

However, like all good noncommissioned officers, he launched into his PowerPoint briefing with zeal, but to his dismay the slides went crazy only seconds into it.

Finally, after several attempts to correct the slide problem, his embarrassment ended when Lt. Gen. Carrol “Howie” Chandler, commander of the Alaskan Command, stopped the prearranged malfunction and proceeded to announce Sergeant Waters received the Bronze Star Medal for his meritorious achievement while deployed to Iraq.

“You really surprised me with this,” said Sergeant Waters after the ceremony Feb. 11. “All I can say is thanks.”

Sergeant Waters’ life has been full of surprises since he was deployed to Iraq. “I had no idea what I was getting into,” said Sergeant Waters, who arrived in Baghdad mid-May last year. At his new unit, the Multi-National Security Transition Command-Iraq, he was given the job of construction coordinator.

“I didn’t know that a field grade officer usually fills the position until later. But since they were short handed and I was the only one experienced with construction management, I got the job

anyway.”

He was familiar with multitasking and overseeing complex jobs since he managed projects at more than 20 remote sites around Alaska. Sergeant Waters is the NCO in charge of construction management for the 611th Civil Engineer Squadron.

In Iraq, however, he quickly found out just how complicated his job could get.

By the end of his tour in September, he was managing a \$199 million construction budget for building and rebuilding more than 580 facilities to support the Iraqi police force.

“It was a mess when I started,” said Sergeant Waters. “We had statements of work for buildings that no one had even seen, let alone visited.

“It was nearly impossible to determine what work had to be done, and that made it even harder to verify if the job was completed according to the statement of work. So, I made it one of my main goals to visit and verify the condi-

tion and location of each building.”

Stateside, that’s a fairly easy task; however, in war-torn Iraq, any type of travel is fraught with danger.

“When I first got there it was hard to convince the transportation officer that we needed to go out to see these places — especially since our convoy was usually just two or three Suburbans or Landcrusiers with two armed escorts in each vehicle. He often got us there by helicopter to avoid traveling by land. But we did finally get Humvees and that made land travel easier,” said Sergeant Waters.

But even with better protection, traveling was still treacherous.

“We were in Mosul when our Humvee was rammed,” said Sergeant Waters. “Luckily the car that rammed us didn’t blow up for some reason. We didn’t stick around to find out why; we just got out of there fast.”

In Mosul, Sergeant Waters coordinated the contracts for a new police academy and police headquarters along

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the military of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not involving participation in aerial flight, while engaged in an action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict against an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

with several other buildings.

“The first academy was blown up,” he said. “For the new academy, we started with upgraded security and force protection measures, including berms, walls and fencing. The Iraqis couldn’t get anyone, including the U.S. contractors who were training them, to stay at the academy until those upgrades were finished.”

He also explained that they were shot at from across the Tigris River while visiting another police station, and dodged mortar attacks near Ramadi, west of Fallujah.

“I didn’t think I was doing anything special,” said Sergeant Waters. “I was just doing my job and hopefully doing it well enough so the next guy would not have to go out to all of these places to verify their location and condition.”

Sergeant Waters may think he was ordinary, but his commanders thought he did extraordinary work saying: “His dynamic leadership and unparalleled achievement were a pivotal factor in accelerating Iraq’s transition to sovereignty which played a vital role in the long-term national security interests of the nation.”

Sergeant Waters will get another chance to put his skills to work at his new assignment in Honduras.

“I’m told we will also go to Nicaragua and build roads and schools — I’m looking forward to that — that chance to make a difference,” he said.

SPORTS NEWS



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS JONATHAN THRASHER



Above: Elhadgi Mbaye, Team Elmendorf, rolls past an opponent from the DFC Power team, an Anchorage team, for the score during a soccer game Feb. 20 at O’Malley Gardens indoor soccer facility in South Anchorage. Team Elmendorf took the victory 13-3.

Top: Stewart Guethlein, Team Elmendorf, runs the ball down field during the game against DFC Power at O’Malley Gardens.

Base soccer team plays all year

By Staff Sgt. Mike Edwards
3rd Wing Public Affairs

The forward shakes one defender and dodges to the left. He sees one last opponent who is trying to keep him from scoring. He kicks. “Goooooooooal!” The announcer bellows from his vantage point overlooking the thousands of roaring fans.

What type of sport is this? It is arguably the most popular sport in the world, one in which the word “goal” is universally used, regardless of language or national origin. This sport is soccer, and for the men of the Elmendorf soccer team, winning and making goals has become second nature to them.

Comprised of people from various squadrons and agencies on base, this eclectic group of soccer aficionados compete against other teams throughout the Anchorage area.

“Soccer is my life,” said Andrea Cantatore, head coach for the team. “I’ve been playing since I was four and have loved it ever since.”

Most of the players on the team started playing soccer at an early age and have continued with it to the present day, using their skills and life-long passion to represent the Air Force in the local community.

“We have a really good team,” said Aaron Marin, assistant coach. “In the Air Force and especially here, you have a lot of people arriving and departing, so you don’t have years to build up the team. Despite the challenges, we are really starting to gel and are becoming a really cohesive unit.”

It is these challenges that make soccer such an attractive choice for people in the Air Force, according to Cantatore, who is preparing to try out for the Air Force soccer team.

“You have to be incredibly fit to play soccer, especially if you want to play at the base level,” he said. “Over the course of an average game, we’ll run approximately six

to seven miles.”

For those looking to trim their waistline and improve their run time – two important categories on the Air Force fitness test – playing competitive soccer could be the answer, according to Marin.

“While the sport is really physically demanding, I think it is also one of the safest sports you can play,” he said. “Right now I’m on the injured reserve list for the team because I broke my collarbone recently while playing basketball. That isn’t something that you see a lot of in soccer.”

Despite the challenges of Alaska’s winters, these hard-core soccer fans who play in three different sessions throughout the year usually don’t worry about the weather. “Right now, we play our games indoors,” said Cantatore. “Once spring arrives and conditions are right, we’ll begin getting ready for tryouts for the next session, which will be outdoors.”

When it comes to finding talent for the team, some things just don’t matter, according to Cantatore.

“You have some sports such as basketball where height can be a real advantage. You can’t do anything to change that to give you a competitive advantage,” he said. “Soccer is different. Height or weight doesn’t matter, only your skill; and skill is something you can improve with practice.”

When describing just one reason so many people throughout the world are such big soccer fans, Cantatore mentions that it could have something to do with its uniqueness.

“Soccer is the hardest sport in the world and that’s what makes it so great,” he said. “When you think about it, it is the only sport that doesn’t involve the use of hands. Basketball, football, golf and everything else does. It takes more skill and more practice doing something with your feet.”

To try out or learn more about the team, call Andrea Cantatore at 552-3251.